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BUCKLOW RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

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FOR THE YEAR 1957

BUCKLOW RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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AND

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1957

BUCKLOW RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman - Mr. W.J. Johnson, J.P.
Vice Chairman - Mr. C.L.S. Cornwall-Legh, J.P.

Members of the Council

Mr. W. Baldwin.
Mrs. S. Barr.
Mr. J. Beckett.
Mr. A.E. Crimes.
Mr. A. Dale.
Mr. T. Davies. (died June 1957)
Mr. J.A. Done.
Mr. D.A. Findley.
Mr. S.B.K. Jackson.
Mr. W.J. Jackson.
Mrs. A.M. Jones.
Col. R.P. Langford-Brooke.
Mr. E. Leach. (elected 1957)
Mr. S. Morton, J.P.
Mr. A. Pennington.
Mr. F.J. Pratt.
Mr. R.C. Richardson.
Mr. J.B. Thornton.
Mr. J.G. Wainwright, J.P.
Mr. T.S. Wright.

The work of the Health Department is administered by the following Committees.

1. Special Services Committee

Chairman - Mr. S. Morton, J.P.
Vice Chairman - Mr. C.L.S. Cornwall-Legh, J.P.

The Committee comprises the whole Council and is responsible for the refuse and night-soil collection services, for rodent control, and all water supply and sewerage schemes.

2. Public Health Committee

Chairman - Mr. A. Pennington.
Vice Chairman - Mr. W. Baldwin.

The Committee comprises the whole Council and is responsible for all public health matters except the services administered by the Special Services Committee.

Staff of the Health Department

Medical Officer of Health

Donald Longbottom, M.B., Ch. B., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector

H.G. Milburn, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., Cert. Insp. of Meat and other Foods.

Additional Public Health Inspector.

R. Egan, M.A.P.H.I., Cert. Insp. of Meat and other Foods.

Clerk Typist

Miss I.A. Frith.

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BUCKLOW RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Health Department,
Dunham Mount,
Dunham Road,
Altrincham.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Bucklow Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my report for the year 1957.

The vital statistics are quite satisfactory. The number of live births (217) is 27 higher than the figure for 1956 and there is an increase in the birth rate. Deaths (134) were 10 more than in 1956 but there is a slight reduction in the death rate.

There were 9 deaths of infants under 1 year, 7 of these being under 4 weeks as compared with 2 in 1956. This figure closely approaches the figure for 1955.

There was no undue incidence of infectious disease.

Details are given in the body of the report with regard to the control of caravans and hutments in the district, particularly at Pickmere and with regard to the slum clearance situation.

I would again express my appreciation of the interest shown by members in the work of the Health Department and of the courtesy extended to me at all times by the Council's officers.

I am Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

Donald Longbottom.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area of District in Acres	46,103
Registrar General's estimate of home population (mid year)	12,590
Population (1951 Census)	11,170
Number of inhabited houses according to rate books	3,552
Rateable Value	£173,381
Sum represented by a penny rate	£665

VITAL STATISTICS

	1957	1956
Total Live Births	217	190
Total Deaths	134	124
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 living	17·23	16·66
Standardised Birth Rate per 1,000 living	18·09	17·66
General Birth Rate (England and Wales)	16· 1	15· 6
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 living	10·64	10·87
Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 living	11·59	11·74
General Death Rate (England and Wales)	11· 5	11· 7
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	41· 4	10· 5
General Infant Mortality Rate (England and Wales)	23· 1	23· 7
Deaths from Tuberculosis	2	1
Deaths from Poliomyelitis	0	1
Deaths from other Infectious Diseases	1	0
Deaths from Cancer	28	21
Deaths from Accidents	6	6

The population figures are for home population and the birth and death rates are based on this population. The standardised rates are arrived at by the use of a factor supplied by the Registrar General which allows for the age and sex distribution of the population of the district and gives a fairer comparison with the rates in other districts.

BIRTHS

		1957			1956		
		M	F	Total	M	F	Total
Live Births	(legitimate)	117	92	209	109	74	183
	(illegitimate)	3	5	8	5	2	7
		120	97	217	114	76	190
Still Births	(legitimate)	2	3	5	5	3	8
	(illegitimate)	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2	3	5	5	3	8

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

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General Birth Rate (England and Wales)	15· 1	15· 6
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 living	10·64	10·27
Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 living	11·59	11·74
General Death Rate (England and Wales)	11· 5	11· 7
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	41· 4	10· 5
General Infant Mortality Rate (England and Wales)	23· 1	23· 7
Deaths from Tuberculosis	2	1
Deaths from Poliomyelitis	0	1
Deaths from other Infection Diseases	1	0
Deaths from Cancer	29	21
Deaths from Accidents	6	5

The population figures are for home population and the birth and death rates are based on this population. The standardised rates are arrived at by the use of a factor supplied by the Registrar General which allows for the age and sex distribution of the population of the district and gives a fairer comparison with the rates in other districts.

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(illegitimate)	3	5	8	5	2	7
	120	97	217	114	76	190
Still Birth (legitimate)	2	3	5	5	3	8
(illegitimate)	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2	3	5	5	3	8

INFANTILE MORTALITY

Deaths of Infants under 1 year

	M	F	Total
Legitimate	6	3	9
Illegitimate	0	0	0
	6	3	9

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks

Legitimate	4	3	7
Illegitimate	0	0	0
	4	3	7

The causes of death of these infants were as follows:-

Under 1 year

1. Broncho-pneumonia. (4 months)
2. Meningococcal Septicaemia (7 months)

Under 4 weeks

1. Anoxia; pulmonary atelectasis; prematurity. (1 day)
2. Broncho-pneumonia; bronchitis. (3 weeks)
3. Ritters disease. (1 week)
4. Prematurity. (28 weeks) (20 mins.)
5. Prematurity. (2 days)
6. Hydrops Foetalis. (15 mins.)
7. Congenital heart defect causing a form of asphyxia. (2 weeks)

MATERNAL MORTALITY

Deaths from pregnancy, childbirth and abortion - 1.
In this case the interval between the maternal condition and death was stated to be greater than 12 months.

The following table is included to show how the vital statistics compare with those during the past 25 years.

	Population	Total live births	Crude birth rate	Total deaths	Crude death rate	Deaths of infants under 1 yr.	Cases of Maternal Mortality
Yearly Av. 1931-35	23,354	275·2	11·8	236·0	10·1	16·2	0·8
Yearly Av. 1936-40	9,304	150·7	16·2	115·2	12·3	7·2	1·5
Yearly Av. 1941-45	10,006	146·0	14·6	102·6	10·2	4·8	0·2
Yearly Av. 1946-50	10,614	161·6	15·2	112·2	10·5	5·2	0·6
Yearly Av. 1951-55	11,720	193·6	16·5	123·2	8·48	4·6	0
1956	11,400	190	16·6	124	10·3	2	0
1957	12,590	217	17·2	134	10·6	9	1

INFANTILE MORTALITY

Deaths of Infants under 1 year

	M	F	Total
Legitimate	6	3	9
Illegitimate	0	0	0
	6	3	9

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks

	M	F	
Legitimate	4	3	7
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	4	3	7

The causes of death of these infants were as follows:-

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1. Broncho-pneumonia. (4 months)
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Under 4 weeks

1. Anoxia, pulmonary atelectasis, prematurity. (1 day)
2. Broncho-pneumonia, bronchitis. (3 weeks)
3. Pyloric stenosis. (1 week)
4. Prematurity. (20 weeks) (20 mins.)
5. Prematurity. (2 days)
6. Hydrops Foetalis. (15 mins.)
7. Congenital heart defect causing a form of asphyxia. (2 weeks)

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	Population	Total live births	Crude birth rate	Total deaths	Crude death rate	Deaths of infants under 1 yr.	Cases of Maternal Mortality
Yearly Av. 1931-35	23,234	275·2	11·9	234·0	10·1	16·2	0·8
Yearly Av. 1936-40	9,304	150·7	16·2	115·0	12·3	7·2	1·3
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Yearly Av. 1946-50	10,614	161·6	15·2	112·2	10·5	5·2	0·6
Yearly Av. 1951-55	11,720	193·6	16·5	124·2	8·49	4·0	0
1956	11,400	190	16·6	124	10·2	2	0
1957	12,500	217	17·3	134	10·6	5	1

DEATHS REGISTERED DURING THE CALENDAR YEAR

1957, AND CAUSES

Cause of Death	1957 Male	1957 Female	1957 Total	Total 1956
Respiratory Tuberculosis	2	0	2	1
Other forms of Tuberculosis	0	0	0	0
Syphilitic Disease	0	0	0	1
Diphtheria	0	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	0	0
Meningococcal Infections	1	0	1	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0	1
Measles	0	0	0	0
Other infective and parasitic diseases	0	0	0	0
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	4	3	7	4
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung and Bronchus	4	1	5	8
Malignant Neoplasm Breast	0	2	2	3
Malignant Neoplasm Uterus	0	1	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	7	7	14	5
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	0	0	0	0
Diabetes	0	1	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system.	9	10	19	20
Coronary disease, angina	9	2	11	25
Hypertension with Heart disease	1	1	2	0
Other heart diseases	8	10	18	11
Other circulatory diseases	6	3	9	6
Influenza	0	3	3	0
Pneumonia	3	1	4	1
Bronchitis	4	1	5	7
Other diseases of respiratory system	0	0	0	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	0	2	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	0	0	0	0
Nephritis and nephrosis	0	1	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	0	2	2
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	1	1	0
Congenital malformations	1	0	1	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	7	8	15	14
Motor vehicle accidents	4	0	4	1
All other accidents	2	0	2	5
Suicide	2	0	2	2
Homicide and operations of war.	0	0	0	0
	78	56	134	124

COMMENTS ON THE CAUSES OF DEATH

Out of 134 deaths during the year 95 (70%) were persons over the ago of 60 and 109 (81%) were over the age of 50.

The major causes of death were those conditions associated with the older age group viz. those attributed to malignant diseases and those associated with degenerative conditions of the heart and circulatory system.

Of the 6 deaths due to accidents, 4 were due to motor vehicle accidents, one to injuries caused by a bull and one to an accidental fall at home.

Deaths in age groups are shown below.

Age	Male	Female	Total
Under 1 year	6	3	9
1-10 years	1	0	1
11-20 "	0	0	0
21-30 "	2	1	3
31-40 "	1	2	3
41-50 "	4	4	8
51-60 "	9	6	15
61-70 "	16	10	26
71-80 "	29	15	44
81-90 "	8	15	23
91-100 "	0	2	2
	76	58	134

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table shows the cases of infectious disease, other than Tuberculosis notified during the year and classified in age groups:-

Notifiable Disease	All Ages	Under 1 year	1 to 4	5 to 14	15 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	65 & over	Age Unknown
Scarlet Fever	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Measles	57	1	26	27	1	1	1	0	0
Pneumonia	5	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	1
Whooping Cough	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Meningococcal Infection	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dysentery	3	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0
Total	70	2	29	30	3	4	1	0	1

The following table shows comparisons for the last five years (excluding members of H.M. Forces):-

Notifiable Disease	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	1	0	0	1
Erysipelas	0	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	7	15	8	0	1
Pneumonia	2	3	0	3	5
Measles	86	36	135	98	57
Whooping Cough	67	10	10	28	1
Dysentery	0	9	2	0	3
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	0	0	2	2	1
Non-Paralytic Poliomyelitis	0	0	0	4	0
Total:	162	74	157	135	69

The above table illustrates the small number of cases attributed to the streptococcus, namely Puerperal Pyrexia, Erysipelas and Scarlet Fever, diseases which took such toll in the earlier years of the century.

TUBERCULOSIS

1. Number of cases recorded at 31st December,

	1957			1956		
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total
Males	25	2	27	24	7	31
Females	19	3	22	20	3	23
	44	5	49	44	10	54

2. Number of new cases notified during 1957 as compared with the previous year

	1957			1956		
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total
Males	3	1	4	1	0	1
Females	1	0	1	5	0	5
	4	1	5	6	0	6

There were two deaths from Tuberculosis during 1957, both males.

FOOD POISONING

There were no cases of food poisoning during the year.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951

Sections 47 and 50

No action was necessary under these sections during the year.

PUBLIC HEALTH (Infectious Diseases) REGULATIONS 1953

The Mother of a child who contracted Dysentery was found to be herself infected and since she was employed in a Works canteen it became necessary to require her to stay away from work. Compensation for loss of earnings for a period of 7 weeks was paid by the Council.

National Health Act Services, and services provided by the Cheshire County Council.

A. Services provided in accordance with the requirements of the National Health Service Act, 1946.

1. Hospital Services

Controlling Body - Manchester Regional Hospital Board.
Local Hospitals - Administered by North West and Mid Cheshire Hospital Management Committee.
Secretary - Mr. M. Owen, Administrative Offices, Altrincham Maternity Home, Sinderland Road, Altrincham.

Hospitals serving this area:-

General Acute Cases - Cottage Hospital, Knutsford.
Altrincham General Hospital.
Denzell Convalescent Hospital, Bowdon.
General Chronic Cases - Cranford Lodge, Knutsford.
Chest Clinic - St. Anne's Home, Woodville Road, Altrincham.
Ear, Nose and Throat- " " " " " "
Infectious Diseases - Monsall Hospital, Newton Heath, Manchester.
Smallpox - Ainsworth Smallpox Hospital, Nr. Bury, Lancs.

A large number of cases from Bucklow are treated in the Manchester Hospitals.

11. General Practitioner and General Dental Services.

Controlling Body - National Health Service Executive Council for Cheshire.
Clerk - Mr. F. Hayter, 28 Nicholas Street, Chester.

111. Services of Local Health Authority - Cheshire County Council

1. Ambulance Service)
2. Immunisation and Vaccination) Altrincham Divisional Health
3. Care and After Care) Committee.
4. Home Help Service)
5. Occupation Centre)

6. Maternity and Child Welfare)
7. Domiciliary Midwifery and District Nursing) County
8. Dental Service - Expectant and Nursing Mothers and) Council
Pre-School Children.) Health
9. Mental Health Service - Duly Authorised Officer for) Committee.
Mental Health - Mr. Dixon.)
18 Stanley Road, Knutsford.)

The Divisional Health Committee area covers Hale U.D.C.. Bowdon U.D.C., Altrincham M.B., Knutsford U.D.C., and Bucklow R.D.C., and includes members of those Authorities, members of the County Council, and co-opted members.

Divisional Medical Officer - D.Longbottom, Mountlands, The Mount, Altrincham, (Altrincham 1733)

B. Other Services by other Committees of Cheshire County Council.

1. Education Committee - School Health Service, including School Dental Service.
2. Welfare Committee - Old persons, care and attention - homeless, handicapped persons, provision for residential accommodation etc.,
County Welfare Officer - Mr. Evans, County Hall, Chester.
3. Children's Committee - Provides for the care of Deprived Children i.e. children not under parental care.
Children's Officer for this area - Mr. Blades, County Offices, Bexton Road, Knutsford.

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

I am indebted to the Chief Public Health Inspector for compiling the following section of the report which relates to matters under his administration.

VISITS

During the year a total of 1,646 visits were made as follows:-

Housing	65	Improvement Grants	34
Council Houses	19	Drains, Cesspools, Watercourses	96
Overcrowding	5	Drainage nuisances	53
Housing Tenancies	92	Refuse nuisances	3
Movable Dwellings	88	Water supplies, Swimming Baths	8
Factories, Outworkers	20	Scavenging	273
Food Premises	29	Cesspool Emptying	10
Meat and Food Inspection	573	Night Soil Collection	28
Infectious Disease	40	Dustbins, Closet Pails	33
Disinfestation	9	Schools	15
Rodent Control	55	Sewer connections & conversions	33
Air Pollution	6	Miscellaneous	69

HOUSING

Defects and Nuisances

Informal notices were served on the owners of 11 houses in which defects were found following complaint. Remedies were effected in three of these.

Six complaints of faulty house drainage systems were investigated and informal notices served.

13 defective dustbins and 12 defective closet pails were the subject of informal notices as also were four blocked or contaminated ditches.

In the case of an old-standing nuisance from a septic tank and filter, a statutory notice was served but this was not complied with and at the end of the year the Council were still considering the action to be taken. Meanwhile a serious nuisance at a spot frequented by thousands in the summer months continued unabated.

A statutory notice was also served in respect of a choked ditch which was affecting the drainage of a house, again without enforcement.

In yet another case of a choked ditch the Council exercised their powers and cleaned out the ditch at the ratepayers expense since the person responsible was unable to do the work himself.

Demolition and Closure

17 unfit houses were represented for action and dealt with as follows:-

(a)	Undertaking to repair accepted and house made fit	- 1
(b)	Demolition order made	- 1
(c)	Undertakings not to use as houses after vacation accepted	- 9
(d)	No formal action taken	- 2
(e)	Action pending at 31st December.	- 4

Seven of the 9 houses which were the subject of undertakings were still occupied at the end of the year. One family were rehoused by the Council and one family left.

A further three houses were voluntarily closed by their owners.

No progress was made with the actual clearance of the 78 unfit houses included in the five-year programme submitted to the Minister in 1955 and a full report on the position existing at the end of the year was submitted to the Health Committee.

The following table, which shows the action taken with regard to the 42 houses in the programme which had been represented by the Chief Public Health Inspector from 1955 to 1958, is extracted from this report:-

1.	Demolition Orders made	1 house
	This is a recent order and the house is still occupied.	
2.	Closing Orders made	6 houses
	No. of families rehoused by the Council	4
	No. of families rehoused elsewhere	2
	i.e. all 6 houses are vacant and awaiting demolition.	
3.	Undertakings to make fit accepted	4 houses
	No. of houses made fit	4
4.	Undertakings not to use as houses accepted	22 houses
	No. of families rehoused by the Council	4
	No. of families rehoused elsewhere	4
	No. of houses still occupied	14
5.	No formal action taken	4 houses
	No. of families rehoused by the Council	2
	No. of families rehoused elsewhere	1
	No. of houses still occupied.	1
6.	Action Pending	5 houses
	No. of houses occupied	3
	No. of houses vacant	2

It will be seen that 19 of the 42 unfit houses represented were still occupied at 31st December 1957 and a further 36 occupied houses remained to be dealt with. It was pointed out in the report that the Council therefore were faced with the problem of 55 unfit houses from which they had a duty to rehouse the occupants. Allowing for those cases where old persons might be permitted to remain in their homes it was stated that approximately 40 dwellings would be needed and that urgent consideration should be given to the problem of providing the necessary accommodation.

Overcrowding

5 cases of overcrowding were reported to the Housing Tenancy Committee but only one overcrowded family were rehoused.

Rent Act 1957

Although numerous enquiries as to the rights of landlords and tenants under this Act were received in the second half of the year only one application for a certificate of disrepair was received. The certificate was not issued since the owner undertook to attend to the repairs needed.

Improvement Grants

The Engineer & Surveyor deals with applications for Improvement Grants under the Housing Act 1949 but the Chief Public Health Inspector advises as to the suitability of houses for grant-aid and indicates in each case the work required to meet the conditions of the grant.

During the year 13 Improvement Grants were made representing a total sum of £3,979. A number of owners withdrew their applications on learning of the amount of repair work necessary to their property to qualify for grant and in some cases grants were refused.

New Houses

During the year 24 new Council houses were completed and let as follows:-

High Legh - 17
Partington- 7

A further 7 houses and 4 bungalows were under construction at High Legh. In addition 54 private enterprise houses were completed. At the end of the year the Council owned 721 dwellings made up as follows:-

	Pre-1939	Post-1939
Four bedroomed houses	11	37
Three bedroomed houses	92	527
Two bedroomed houses	-	1
Two bedroomed bungalows - brick	-	26
" " " - prefabricated	-	27
	103	618

Three prefabricated bungalows were dismantled and the occupants rehoused as the start of the scheme to replace all the temporary bungalows.

At Partington, where 230 dwellings have been erected since 1946, 41 are let to persons employed at the Carrington Power Station and 112 to overspill tenants nominated by Manchester Corporation (10), Stretford Corporation (62), and Salford Corporation (40).

Letting of Council Houses

The letting and management (except as regards rent collection and repairs and maintenance) of the Council's houses is the responsibility of the Housing Tenancy Committee and the administrative work involved is carried out by the Chief Public Health Inspector.

During the year 62 new tenancies were created, 24 of which were of new houses. Four exchanges with tenants of other Councils were arranged.

A revision of the list of applicants for houses in December reduced the list to 210. This was an increase of only 3 on the position a year earlier in spite of the addition to the list of 103 new applicants.

Movable Dwellings

Once again a considerable amount of time was spent in dealing with the problems arising from the continued demand for caravan sites in the district.

One residential site at Mobberley closed down but one new site at Millington was licensed and three others were enlarged so that at the end of the year there were five residential sites and two recreational sites (outside Pickmere) licensed for a total of 169 caravans, 110 of these being residential vans.

The newly licensed site was earlier the subject of a Court hearing which was unsuccessful, the Council losing their case that an offence was being committed as a result of movable dwellings being permitted on an unlicensed site. The Court ruled that the Council had not established that the dwellings were in fact used for longer than the exempted period. Accordingly a licence was later issued and it is intended that the conditions attached to it will be strictly enforced. The case underlined the inadequate provisions of the Public Health Act 1936 which result in the necessity to pay daily visits to a movable dwelling not only to ascertain its presence but also to prove its use before it can be shown to be in fact a movable dwelling. Unlike a house, which remains a house for the purposes of the Housing Acts when it is unoccupied, a caravan changes its identity whenever its owners leave it and can be a movable dwelling one day but not the next.

A drastic revision of the law relating to movable dwellings is long overdue if a more positive control is to be exercised over structures which are used as weekend dwellings and even as residences.

The year did see a welcome improvement on some licensed sites and at least one residential caravan site in the district can be said to leave nothing to be desired.

Two sites in respect of which planning consent has been refused were in use at the end of the year and the Cheshire County Council served enforcement notices in respect of one. Appeals against these notices were awaiting hearing.

Apart from licensed caravan sites there were 25 other sites on which 50 movable dwellings were licensed individually at the end of the year.

At Pickmere very little progress was made but a prosecution taken by the Council against one site owner for non-compliance with the conditions of his licence was successful and it is hoped that this will encourage other site owners there to improve their sites. Pressure of other duties has made it difficult to press forward with further clearance at Pickmere but two bungalows were demolished and two more thoroughly repaired.

WATER SUPPLY

A mains supply is provided in every parish, with the exception of Tatton, by the Council and other authorities. The statutory undertakers for the various parishes are as follows:-

Manchester Corporation	- Dunham Massey, Carrington, Partington, Ringway.
Stockport Corporation	- Mobberley, Marthall.
Lymm Urban District Council	- Warburton.
Bucklow Rural District Council	- (a) Agden, Ashley, Aston by Budworth, Bexton, Bollington, High Legh, Mere, Millington, Pickmere, Rostherne, Tabley Inferior, Tabley Superior. - bulk supply from Manchester Corporation. (b) Ollerton, Peover Superior, Peover Inferior, Toft. - bulk supply from Stockport Corporation. (c) Plumley. - bulk supply from the Mid and South East Cheshire Water Board.

During the year a new 6" main was laid by the Council from Bucklow Hill to the Army Camp at High Legh, a distance of about 2 miles and another 6" main was laid by Stockport Corporation for a similar distance at Mobberley to augment supplies to the residential and industrial properties under construction at Town Lane.

The large scheme to improve supplies in the parishes of Ollerton, Peover Superior, Peover Inferior and Toft was commenced in mid-year and the acute difficulties experienced during the warm weather when pressures dropped to nil emphasised the need for this scheme to be completed at the earliest possible date.

Supplies generally in the district were adequate.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The cesspool emptying machine although primarily engaged on pail closet emptying, was employed to empty 109 cesspools and septic tanks. The income of £178 from this work helped to offset the additional wages paid in overtime to the men employed. Several tanks situated in inaccessable positions could not be emptied by the machine and the neglected condition of many farm tanks resulted in many hours of wasted time clearing blockages in the hoses.

There continues to be a steady increase in the number of houses provided with waterclosets both with the aid of Grants and otherwise and 6 houses at Partington were connected voluntarily to the new sewers.

It is regrettable that no progress was made with the abolition of the 20 privy middens still existing in Partington although the sewerage scheme in this parish was completed in 1955. A complete surface water sewerage scheme was completed at Partington during 1957.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The year was a notable one for public cleansing for in October, on the same day, the Council took delivery of a second Shelvoke & Drewry Fore and Aft Tipper and a Ferguson Tractor with digging and bulldozing attachments. They now operate two S.D. Fore and Aft Tippers, a Dennis Paxit and two 7 cu.yd. side-loading Ford Freighters together with the S.D. Cesspool Emptier and the Ferguson Tractor.

A revision of the scheme enabled the oldest Ford Freighter to be relegated to the position of a spare vehicle whilst collections at Manchester Airport were stepped up to six times weekly.

The back door weekly collections carried out are an expensive but well worthwhile service of which the Council can feel justifiably proud and it can be said that apart from a small number of isolated or inaccessible dwellings there should be no house in the district which does not receive this service.

The tractor enabled the tips to be kept under much better control and bogging down of the vehicles has now become almost a thing of the past.

The weekly pail closet collections continued without a single complaint and the composting of the contents has become a settled part of the work of the Health Department. However, when one considers how unpleasant is the task of handling night soil, it is a pity that better financial rewards have not been agreed upon by the Whitley Council for men employed on this work.

MILK

Milk Distributors

There are a large number of producer-retailers of ungraded milk, and a few producers retail Tuberculin Tested Milk. Most of the designated milk however, is retailed by dairy firms operating from outside the district although one farmer has his own pasteurising plant.

Twenty seven milk distributors and two dairies are registered.

Designated Milk

13 dealers' licences are 53 supplementary licences to use special designations were issued as follows:-

Designation	Dealers' Licences	Supplementary Licences
Pasteurised	5	19
Sterilised	3	13
Tuberculin Tested	5	21

Tuberculous Milk

The County Medical Officer notified 7 cases where positive biological tests for tuberculosis had been obtained from samples of milk taken on dairy farms in the district. In each case enquiries were made to ascertain whether the milk was being sold in the raw state, but in all cases it was found that it was being sold wholesale to large pasteurising establishments in neighbouring areas.

Milk Sampling

No samples of milk were taken during the year due principally to the heavy pressure of other duties. Locating milk distributors can occupy much time and samples have now to be taken to Sale for collection by the laboratory staff whereas in the past collections were made from Altrincham.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

There are six private slaughterhouses in the district at widely separated points and weekend slaughtering is a regular feature at at least two of these.

In these days of refrigeration it is difficult to understand why slaughtering need take place at weekends and on national holidays and the Council raised with the Association of Rural District Councils the desirability of Local Authorities being empowered in future legislation to restrict the hours and days of slaughtering in licensed slaughterhouses.

There is still a tendency on the part of butchers to pay too little regard to hygienic practices and more stringent legislation is long overdue.

In spite of the inconvenience of evening, weekend and bank holiday work, 593 visits were paid to the various slaughterhouses and 100% inspection was maintained.

The number of animals inspected and the numbers affected with disease are set out in the table overleaf . As compared with the year 1956 the number of beef animals inspected was almost doubled and there was an increase of 95 in the number of pigs inspected. The figures for calves and sheep and lambs showed a decrease of 24 and 118 respectively.

The unusually high figure for Cysticercus Bovis, the cystic stage of the human tapeworm T.Saginata, indicates the importance of regular inspection for this parasite as a matter of routine. In no case was more than one cyst found in a particular carcase and all cysts found were in either the cheek muscles or the heart. Butchers co-operated willingly in agreeing to the carcase being refrigerated for 21 days as a precautionary measure.

Deadweight certification of pigs was continued at one slaughterhouse until September when the Ministry withdrew their approval. Three weeks earlier, however, approval was given for deadweight certification to be carried out at a second slaughterhouse.

40 pigs were certified at the first slaughterhouse and 147 at the second at the time of inspection and the necessary documents prepared for the Ministry.

In addition small consignments of fresh kosher beef and offals were landed at Manchester Airport at more or less regular weekly intervals throughout the year. The kosher meat included 516 forequarters of Beef, 188 double forequarters of Mutton and 184 boxes of offals. Various other imported foodstuffs were also examined on occasions.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	676	231	52	3,546	1,135
Number inspected	676	231	52	3,546	1,135
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci. Whole carcases condemned	1	-	1	1	3
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	100	75	-	48	55
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	14·9	32·5	1·9	1·4	5·1
Tuberculosis only: Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	41	44	-	-	30
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	6·1	19·0	-	-	2·8
Cysticercosis Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	11	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	11	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

ICE CREAM

There is only one manufacturer of ice cream in the district where a complete cold mix is used. The premises were maintained in a satisfactory condition and samples taken were satisfactory.

1 further premises used for the sale of Ice Cream was registered during the year bringing the total of registered premises to 17.

FOOD PREMISES

There are 128 food premises in the district split up as follows:-

Shops	General Grocers	25	
	Butchers	2	
	Bakers	2	(both are also general grocers)
	Greengrocers	1	(also retails wet fish and general groceries)
	Fish Friers	1	
Canteens	Factory	9	
	Institutions	3	
	Day Schools	14	
	Clubs	1	
Caterers	Inns & Hotels	34	(at least 10 doing a substantial restaurant trade)
	Cafes	19	
	Restaurants	2	
Miscellaneous		15	

Inspections were made of 29 food premises during the year and on the whole the standard of food hygiene was found to be high although in a few cases the structural condition of the premises was unsatisfactory. Most traders have co-operated well in meeting the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955. The time devoted to this work was less than is desirable due to pressure of other duties, notably housing.

SWIMMING BATHS

There is only one public swimming bath in the district. This is an open-air bath used only in the summer and it was well patronised during the very warm periods. No contravention of the byelaws was found and samples of the water proved satisfactory although some trouble due to algal growths did arise during one warm spell.

PET SHOPS

Two premises are licensed under the Pet Animals Act 1951. One is a kennels and the other a bird, fish and small animals dealer.

AIR POLLUTION

Certain provisions of the Clean Air Act 1956 came into force at the start of the year but apart from the parishes of Carrington and Partington there are no air pollution problems in the district. Partington, which is about to be developed into a small town lends itself to smoke control but no consideration has been given to the question of declaring a smoke control area there. Consideration was not given either to the Model Byelaw requiring approved appliances to be installed in new buildings.

Some confusion was caused to industrialists in the district by the decision not to refer consideration of new furnaces and chimneys to the Health Department although they had been approached by the Chief Public Health Inspector on the introduction of the Act. The Engineer and Surveyor refers all proposals to the National Industrial Fuel Efficiency Service.

FACTORIES

There are in the district 36 factories where power is used and in which only section 7 of the Factories Act 1937 is enforced by the Council and 7 factories without power.

One case of dirty sanitary accommodation referred by the Factory Inspector was dealt with satisfactorily.

Twelve factories are subject to Section 34 of the Act which requires the occupier to hold a certificate of adequate means of escape in case of fire. A considerable amount of time was devoted to the preparation of certificates and this work was carried out in co-operation with the Fire Prevention Officer of the Cheshire County Fire Brigade.

No new certificates were granted during the year to the seven factories not previously dealt with but four were under active preparation by the 31st December.

SCHOOLS

There are 12 primary and 1 infant school in the district and representations were made to the Education Authorities in respect of the unsatisfactory sanitary accommodation at four of these.

At Partington, where a new school is to be built, some additional pail closets were provided as a temporary palliative and at Arley new sanitary accommodation was provided. No improvements were made at Carrington and High Legh.

In the autumn an inspection of 11 of the schools was made with officers of the County Education, Health and Architects departments with a view to bringing the canteen facilities up to the standard required by the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955. The two schools not visited were due for closure in 1958.

At only one school are meals prepared on the premises, all the others being supplied from central kitchens.

Improvements were found to be necessary at almost every school and it is hoped that these will be put in hand during 1958.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1933 to 1954.

23 renewal licences were issued authorising the holders to slaughter or stun animals in a slaughterhouse or knackers yard.

No evidence of contravention of the Acts and Regulations was noted.

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No evidence of contravention of the Acts and Regulations was noted.

RODENT CONTROL

The Council employ a full-time operator for this work and the following table shows the actual number of inspections and treatments carried out:-

Type of Property	Local Authority	Private	Agricultural	Business and other	Total
Inspection made following complaint	-	145	7	23	175
Inspection made in Routine Surveys	37	123	136	17	313
Major Rat Infestations found	-	2	5	3	10
Minor Rat Infestations found	31	96	46	12	185
Major Mice Infestations found	1	43	1	11	56
Treatments carried out	32	114	7	17	170

In the case of the Council's tips and sewage disposal works, frequent visits were made and treatments carried out when necessary.

The figures include treatments of hedgerows and waste land where ownership is often difficult to establish.

All 20 sewer systems were test-baited during the year and in all cases no takes were recorded.

It is impossible to test the sewers at Mere and High Legh owing to the manholes being completely inaccessable.

RATS IN CONTROL

The Council employs a full-time operator for this work and the following table shows the actual number of inspections and treatments carried out:-

Type of Property	Local Authority	Private	Agricultural	Business and other	Total
Inspection made following complaint	-	143	7	23	173
Inspection made in routine survey	37	123	32	17	213
Major Rat Infestations found	-	2	5	3	10
Minor Rat Infestations found	31	95	45	12	183
Major mice Infestations found	1	43	1	11	56
Treatments carried out	32	114	7	12	170

In the case of the Council's this and sewage disposal works, frequent visits were made and treatments carried out when necessary.

The figures include treatments of outbrooks and waste land where ownership is often difficult to establish.

All 20 sewer systems were test-baited during the year and in all cases no bait was recovered.

It is impossible to test the sewers at this and high tech owing to the manholes being completely inaccessible.